

B³
Cure the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, an ethylene-propylene copolymer, an ethylene-ethyl acrylate copolymer and an ethylene-methyl acrylate copolymer, is modified.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

By way of the amendment instructions above, several of the pending claims herein have been revised so as to address the Examiner's rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. With respect to support for the intended molecular weight employed in the present specification, the Examiner's attention is directed to page 23, first full paragraph. Also, applicants have assumed that the criticism advanced against claim 8 as stated in the action was really intended for claim 9.

Applicants are somewhat confused by the Examiner's assertion of non-enablement under 35 USC §112, first paragraph. In this regard, applicants note that the claimed composition herein includes a polyacetal copolymer obtained by copolymerizing polyoxymethylene and a comonomer having the formula (I). In formula (I), it will be noted that the **sum total** of m and n is 1 to 5. That is, when either of m and n is zero, then the other is necessarily at least 1. As such, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the present claims do not cover a situation where m and n are both simultaneously zero.

With respect to the alleged lack of disclosure regarding how to make materials having m and n greater than 1, the Examiner is invited to re-read the originally filed specification at pages 13-15. Moreover, applicants note that branched polyacetal copolymers employed as component (A) in the compositions of the present invention are, in and of themselves, notoriously well known as evidenced by U.S. Patent Nos. 2,768,994 and 3,027,352.²

² A copy of each patent is attached and noted in an appropriate form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's convenience to record his consideration of the same.

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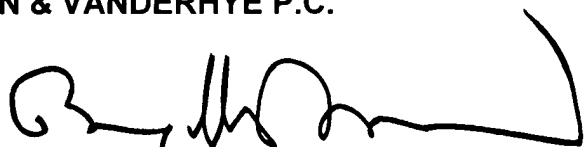
Therefore, a skilled person in this art would be clearly enabled by the present specification so as to make the branched polyacetal copolymers as defined in the applicants' claims.

An early and favorable reply on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Bryan H. Davidson
Reg. No. 30,251

BHD:Imy

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor

Arlington, VA 22201-4714

Telephone: (703) 816-4000

Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

APPENDIX I

Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121(c)

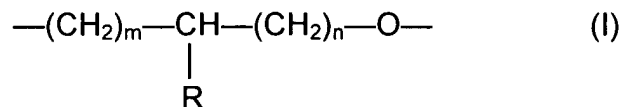
1. (Amended) A branched polyacetal resin composition, comprising:

100 parts by weight of a branched polyacetal copolymer (A) having an oxymethylene group as the main repeating unit and having a branching unit represented by the following formula (I), and
0.5 to 40 parts by weight of at least one polymer (B) selected from the group consisting of the following polymers (B-1) and (B-2), [i.e.,]

polymer (B-1): a graft or block copolymer prepared from an olefin polymer (b-1) and at least one vinyl polymer (b-2); and

polymer (B-2): a modified olefin polymer in which an olefin polymer (b-3) is modified with at least one compound selected from the group consisting of an unsaturated carboxylic acid, an unsaturated carboxylic acid anhydride and derivatives thereof, and/or

0.1 to 5 parts by weight of a lubricant (C), [.]



wherein m and n each is an integer of 0 to 5; the sum of m + n is 1 to 5;
and R is a monovalent organic group having a number average molecular weight of 40 to 1000.

7. (Twice Amended) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymer (B-1) is prepared from at least one olefin polymer (b-1) [, which are] selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene and an ethylene-propylene copolymer,

and at least one vinyl polymer (b-2) [, which are] selected from the group consisting of methyl polymethacrylate, an acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer and polystyrene.

9. (Twice Amended) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymer (B-2) is a modified olefin polymer where at least one olefin polymer (b-3) [, which are] selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, an ethylene-propylene copolymer, an ethylene-ethyl acrylate copolymer and an ethylene-methyl acrylate copolymer, is modified.